

# Friends of Tubbs Hill

Spring 2011 Newsletter



## PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Forests are dynamic, always changing, and Tubbs Hill is no exception. People who walk the hill regularly have noticed that the Douglas Fir are dying. The primary cause is Armillaria root rot, which is chronic and cumulative. Unfortunately for the Douglas Fir, pathologists have not come up with a quick and easy cure. These root rot areas are developing into tall dense brush fields that are shading out sun-loving Ponderosa Pine natural reproduction. What we do know is that other sun-loving species, in addition to Ponderosa Pine, such as Idaho White Pine and Western Larch are very resistant to Armillaria. The Tubbs Hill Management Plan tells us where these sun-loving species will grow within the dying Douglas Fir areas.

Our objective has been to develop a more natural and disease-resistant mix of native conifers and shrubs. Over the past seven years the city, with volunteer help and contracts, has cleared brush and planted most of the root rot areas on the north side of Tubbs Hill. Today we have approximately 200 planted Ponderosa Pine growing in these areas. .

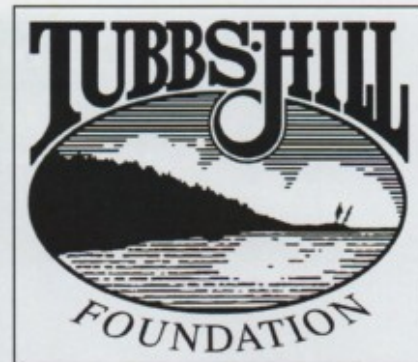
But our problems don't end with the root rot. Over the last 50 plus years, thanks to birds and wind, Norway Maples and Bing Cherry trees have invaded the

very best moist conifer sites on the north and east sides of the hill. During this past summer the city contracted to cut and chemically treat the stumps of these non-native hardwoods, and set the stage for planting native White Pine, Larch, Ponderosa, Syringa and Chokecherry.

This spring on April 9th and 16th the city, with volunteer help and support from the Tubbs Hill Foundation, will plant these treated areas on the north and east sides of the hill. Planting 2,500 conifers and 100 native shrubs will be a big volunteer project. This city-led operation will need 50 people to plant the trees and shrubs on each of the two Saturdays.

There is still more that needs to be done on these April dates. Additional volunteers are needed to go ahead of the planting crews to clean up trash, and pull up Norway Maple seedlings that would otherwise be competing with our planted trees and shrubs. If you would like to help, call Karen Haskew, Urban Forestry Coordinator at 769-2266 or email her at [karenh@cdaid.org](mailto:karenh@cdaid.org).

The Tubbs Hill Foundation thanks all the people, and the city, for helping with past plantings and trash cleanups. Your work is creating a more healthy and diverse natural area now and for future generations. *Mark Weadick, Board Member*  
Photo by Karen Haskew



## Note from the Board:

The Tubbs Hill Foundation wishes to express its gratitude to the many Friends of Tubbs and others who gave input on the McEuen project, especially as it relates to changes to Tubbs Hill. Apparently Team McEuen will withdraw their proposal for man-made structures on Tubbs, and the city will take under advisement the position paper we submitted.

We believe keeping Tubbs Hill, a "Natural Treasure" will be favorably considered by the city, and your input has been vitally important to this development. To read the position paper and for further updates, check our website at [www.tubbshill.org](http://www.tubbshill.org). You'll also enjoy looking at the pictures on our website - many of them submitted by Bob Thomas, one of the original Huckleberry Gang members with Art Manley.



**New Tubbs Hill T-shirts for sale!**

**See inside for details!**

Thanks to our models George Ives (L) and Peter Luttrupp (R)

## Tubbs Hill Brush Project



The Fuel Reduction project carried out last summer covered 43 acres on the north and east sides of Tubbs Hill. City Forester Karen Haskew noted, "There is always a possibility of fires starting on Tubbs due to natural causes, such as lightning, human causes, such as the (illegal) use of cigarettes or fireworks. The purpose of this project was to reduce the amount of "ladder fuels," shrubs, small trees, and low-hanging limbs on larger trees that enable fire to climb up into the tops of the larger trees. One cause for the large number of ladder fuels has been the death of mature Douglas Fir trees due to root rot. By reducing ladder fuels, potential wildfires are kept "low and slow," more fightable within fire department response time.

"In keeping with the goal of maintaining Tubbs Hill as natural as possible, no large trees were removed. Even dead trees were left standing to provide wildlife habitat. The shrubs, trees and branches cut were chipped into small pieces and scattered over the forest floor. As these rot away, their nutrients will be released back to the hill.

"The problem is not that we don't like the non-native trees," Haskew said, "it's that we like the native trees more. The places where the non-natives were gaining a foothold are the moistest sites on Tubbs Hill. These sites should be the home of Ponderosa Pine, Western White Pine (Idaho's state tree), Western Larch, and a variety of native shrubs. All of these

native tree species, however, need sunlight to become established. They cannot compete with the shade-dense Norway Maple and cherry trees.

Mark Weadick, board member and professional forester, reports that "to restore Tubbs as balanced habitat, 2,500 native tree seedlings will be planted in the spring of 2011 (see Mark's article on front). As these trees grow towards maturity, they will reduce the sunlight reaching the forest floor, and therefore restrict shrubs. These sites are, in fact, the only opportunity to grow White Pine and Larch on Tubbs Hill. If we are to have these native trees on Tubbs Hill, action must be taken to control the non-native trees and preserve the native habitat."

Funding for the \$37,238 fuel reduction project was provided by a grant (administered by the local Wildland/Urban Interface committee) from the Idaho Department of Lands in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. While doing the fuel reduction, crews applied herbicide to the non-native stumps under 5" in diameter. The \$7,095 cost for this separate maintenance item to prevent re-growth was paid from the city's Tubbs Hill line item.

Haskew reported that "all the communication that went on prior to the project was helpful. Public reaction was generally pretty good. We received more complaints about dog poo on Tubbs Hill during this period than on the vegetation work itself. I found it interesting to be on Tubbs and hear people explain to their co-hikers

about the fuel reduction work as they hiked."

"There will need to be some follow-up to be sure that we have effectively controlled the non-natives and to pull up any new non-native seedlings that will originate from seed," Haskew noted. "The Parks Department will also have some maintenance of the fuel reduction area to perform over the next 8 years. How much and how will depend on how much/how quickly the undergrowth sprouts back. We hope to get the native seedlings off to a good start and, with their growth, that sunshine to the undergrowth will diminish."

*By George Ives*

*Photos by Karen Haskew*



### New Tubbs Hill T-Shirts!

The Tubbs Hill T-shirts are now available! "Friends of Tubbs Hill" is printed on the front and on the back "Tubbs Hill, A Natural Treasure."

They come in green only, Men's sizes S, M, L, XL, or XXL and cost \$13 each, including shipping and handling. (The black one pictured above was only a sample.)

To order, please mail a check with quantity, sizes and colors to:

**Tubbs Hill T-Shirts**  
PO Box 3061  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

# Have Your Name or Company Logo Engraved On One of the Tubbs Hill Monuments

Tubbs Hill is comprised of 120 acres of publicly owned land, and has an abundance of tranquil, breathtaking scenery and hiking trails. Tubbs Hill is dedicated to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene and everyone is encouraged to use and enjoy its magnificent splendor.

To become a member or have a name engraved on one of the monuments, fill out the form below, attach a check or money order for your choice of membership or \$150 for each line of engraving and mail to Tubbs Hill, Inc., PO Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061.

If you would like to engrave your company's logo on a separate corporate monument, the cost is \$500, plus the engraving charge. The maximum logo size is 4" x 4".

For more information please contact the City Parks Department, 208-769-2252.

## Tubbs Hill Foundation Annual Membership & Engraving Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership

(Both include upcoming newsletters)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership, \$15      \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership, \$25

### Engraving

The monuments are located at the Third Street Entrance to Tubbs Hill and at the East Tubbs Hill Park. Please designate which location you prefer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Third Street Entrance    \_\_\_\_\_ East Tubbs Hill Park    \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Rock

Please print the name as you would like it to appear below. Spaces count as one letter. Total cannot exceed 22 spaces. Please note IN MEMORY OF inscriptions may require two lines for a total cost of \$300.

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Please mail all memberships and applications to: Tubbs Hill, Inc., PO Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061.

THANK YOU for your generous support. Your contribution to the Tubbs Hill Foundation is tax-deductible as permitted by federal law for nonprofit foundations.



## Treasurer's Report on Scott Reed's Book

A total of 226 of Scott Reed's book, "A Treasure Called Tubbs Hill" were sold in 2010. All proceeds after taxes are donated to The Tubbs Hill Foundation. The book may be purchased at the CDA Parks Department, Friends of The CDA Library Book Store, North Idaho Museum, Hastings, ROW and Auntie's in Spokane.

Now would be an opportune time to read this informative book since many changes have been suggested that may impact Tubbs Hill. Art Manley, Ron Edinger, et al were great visionaries who worked tirelessly to have Tubbs Hill, situated in the heart of Coeur d'Alene, preserved as a natural lakeside forested park for generations to come. A definite must read book!

*By Barbara Fillmore, THF Treasurer*

## Mission Statement

Tubbs Hill, Inc. is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of Tubbs Hill City Park as a unique and natural lakeshore forest typical of North Idaho while providing for compatible public use. We act as advocates for the park; advise the city administration on issues pertaining to the park; and support volunteer efforts, fund raising, community relations, and other tasks as needed to achieve this goal.

## Rare Sight on Tubbs Hill

This photo, a rare sight of nesting Bald Eagles on Tubbs Hill, was sent in by two of our greatest supporters "Walkabout and Stickman."

Thanks for your contribution to the newsletter!



# Friends of Tubbs Hill

## Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

CDA Audubon Society	Fern Anderson Nell	James & Barbara Fillmore
Angela Earnhart	K.V. & Joann Nelson	Roger & Judie Johnson
Laura Bayless	Helen Yuditsky	Justin & Maj Stormogipson
George & Kathleen Saylor	J. & Betty Hanson	Tom & Patty Underdown
Scott & Colleen Krajack	Art & Nancy Flagan	

*Our sincere apologies if we have failed to include your name. Please let Editor Evalyn Adams know at 765-5535. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.*

**Please consider providing Tubbs Hill with your email address, we promise not to share with anyone. We will only use it in the future for special mailings or the newsletter. We hope to cut down on our costs by sending our communication electronically.**

**Please email us at [friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org](mailto:friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org) and include your name and mailing address. Thanks for your help!**

### Brochures & Maps

Tubbs Hill brochures and maps are available at the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department, 710 E. Mullan Avenue and at the Visitor's Center located next to the Museum of North Idaho, downtown Coeur d'Alene.

## Board of Directors

Peter Luthropp, President  
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 Barbara Fillmore, Treasurer  
 Barb Zimmer, Secretary  
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 Teresa Runge, Director  
 Mark Weadick, Director  
 Linda Wright, Director  
 George Saylor, Director  
 Doug Eastwood, CDA Parks Director  
 Bill Greenwood, CDA Parks Supt.

### Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month, 7:30 a.m., at the Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 East Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene.

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